

## CLAIMS:

1. Ear tag for marking and identifying animals comprising a male tag panel with a punch that perforates the animal's ear and penetrates into the hollow head (2) of a female tag panel 1 under the action of a clamp, characterised in that one of the male or female tag panels is provided with a means (7), lateral to the tag panel and separable therefrom, for sampling biological material extracted from the ear of the animal when it is pierced by the punch, said sampling means comprising an absorbent material (9/13), and in that said means (7) is linked to one of the jaws of the clamp (3) and the opening of the clamp jaws and/or its removal from the animal's ear separates the sampling means (7) from the tag (1) concerned.

2. Ear tag according to claim 1, characterised in that the sampling means (7) is attached to the female tag panel.

3. Ear tag according to claim 1 and either of claims 2 and 3 [*sic*], characterised in that the sampling means comprises an attachment (8) to be fixed on one of the jaws of the clamp and an absorbent material (9/13).

4. Ear tag according to claim 1, characterised in that the absorbent material (9/13) is disposed transversely to the direction of penetration of the male punch through the ear and to the axis of the hollow head (2) of the female tag panel, the sampling material being posterior to the ear wall.

5. Ear tag according to claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 4, characterised in that the absorbent material is a sampling strip (9), wherein one end is fixed to the attachment linked to the clamp on the attachment and the other is transversal to the direction of penetration of the punch through the animal's ear.

6. Ear tag according to claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 4, characterised in that the absorbent material 13 is connected by one of its ends transversely to the interior of the hollow head of the female tag panel and by its other end to an attachment to be fixed to the jaw of the clamp.

7. Clamp enabling the fitting of the ear tag according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that one of the jaws of the clamp is provided with a fixing means for the attachment to which the absorbent material is linked.

5 8. Ear tag according to claim 1 and any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the absorbent material 9/13 is disposed transversely to the axis of the female head.

9. Ear tag according to claim 1 and any one of claims 2, 3, 4, 5, characterised in that the attachment (8) is fixed onto the periphery of the opening of the female head.

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10. Ear tag according to claim 9, characterised in that the attachment (8) and the sampling means are slit (16) over the opening of the female head (2).

11. Ear tag according to claim 1 and any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the  
15 male tag panel, the female tag panel and the attachment (8) are provided with identical symbols for marking and identification.